

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin and a hydrophilic fiber, characterized in that said water-absorbent resin has a water absorption (a) of physiological saline of 60 to 100 g/g and a water-retaining capacity (b) of physiological saline of 45 to 80 g/g, and that the water absorption (a) of physiological saline and the water-retaining capacity (b) of physiological saline satisfy the relationship of the formula:

$$[\text{Water absorption (a) of physiological saline}] \geq [\text{Water-retaining capacity (b) of physiological saline}] + 15.$$

2. (Original) The absorbent according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbent resin has a water absorption of physiological saline under pressure of 0.49 kPa of at least 55 g/g after 60 minutes passed from the beginning of water absorption.

3. (Original) The absorbent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the water-absorbent resin has a water absorption of physiological saline under pressure of 2.07 kPa of at least 20 g/g after 60 minutes passed from the beginning of water absorption.

4. (Currently amended) The absorbent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the vortex time of the water-absorbent resin is within 100 seconds.

5. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 interposed between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable

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sheet.